

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for accessing and using services and applications from a number of sources into a customized application. The present invention accomplishes this through an entity referred to as a web service. The web services architecture maintains a directory of services available to provide processing or services, along with the location of the services and the input/output schemas required by the services. When a request for data or services is received, appropriate services are invoked by a web services engine using service drivers associated with each service. A web services application is then generated from a runtime model and is invoked to satisfy the request, by communicating as necessary with services in proper I/O formats. In one embodiment, the web services application provides responses in the form of HTML that can be used to generate pages to a browser.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

*This is to certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail Label No. EL 378 372 192 US in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:*

June 10, 1999

Lillian E. Rodriguez  
Signature

6-10-99  
Date

Lillian E. Rodriguez